

if the client elects, with the participation also of family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives, that at a minimum will include—

(i) A statement of the client's vocational rehabilitation goals, which must include goals that are designed to lead to an employment outcome consistent with the client's unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, and capabilities;

(ii) A statement of the specific vocational rehabilitation services to be provided and the projected dates for the initiation and termination of each service; and

(iii) A description of an evaluation procedure for determining whether the client's vocational rehabilitation goals are being achieved, including—

- (A) Objective evaluation criteria; and
- (B) An evaluation schedule;

(2) The Federal funds granted under this part will be used to supplement, and in no case to supplant, funds made available from other Federal and non-Federal sources for projects providing increased choice in the rehabilitation process;

(3) At least 80 percent of the funds awarded for any project under this part will be used to provide vocational rehabilitation services, as specifically chosen by eligible clients;

(4) The applicant will cooperate fully with the Secretary in a national evaluation, including assisting the Department's contractor in selecting and obtaining data for a control group established through random assignment or by the selection of a matched comparison group; and

(5) Individuals with disabilities will be involved in the development and implementation of the project.

(c) Each applicant also shall submit to the Secretary any other information and assurances that the Secretary determines to be necessary.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1820-0018)

(Authority: Secs. 21(b)(6), 802(g)(2), 802(g)(3), 802(g)(5), 802(g)(6), and 802(g)(7) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; 29 U.S.C. 718b and 29 U.S.C. 797a(g)(2), (3), (5), (6), and (7))

Subpart C—How Does the Secretary Make an Award?

§ 377.20 How does the Secretary evaluate an application?

(a) The Secretary evaluates an application on the basis of the criteria in § 377.21.

(b) The Secretary awards up to 100 points for these criteria.

(c) The maximum possible score for each criterion is indicated in parentheses.

(Authority: Sec. 802(g)(3) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; 29 U.S.C. 797a(g)(3))

§ 377.21 What selection criteria does the Secretary use?

The Secretary uses the following criteria to evaluate an application:

(a) *Plan of operation.* (30 points) The Secretary reviews each application to determine the quality of the plan of operation for the project, including—

(1) The extent to which the project includes specific intended outcomes that—

(i) Will accomplish the purpose of the program to provide increased client choice in the rehabilitation process, including at a minimum increased choice in the selection of goals, services, and providers, leading to an employment outcome;

(ii) Are attainable within the project period, given the project's budget and other resources;

(iii) Are objective and measurable for purposes of evaluation, including an estimate of the numbers of clients to be served;

(iv) Include objectives to be met during each budget period that can be used to determine the progress of the project toward meeting its intended outcomes;

(2) The extent to which the plan of operation specifies the methodology for accomplishing each objective of the project;

(3) The extent to which the applicant's plan of management, including resources and timelines, is designed to achieve each objective and intended outcome during the period of Federal funding;

(4) The extent to which the applicant's plan identifies the numbers of eligible clients by type of disability

and the number of eligible clients with severe disabilities who are available to participate in the project;

(5) The extent to which the applicant plans to conduct outreach activities to obtain eligible clients;

(6) The extent to which the applicant's plan ensures that clients who are otherwise eligible to participate are selected without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, or age;

(7) The extent to which the applicant's plan describes a workable process for determining the monetary value of any service or product offered to eligible clients, including, if appropriate, the value of vouchers; and

(8) The extent to which the applicant's plan describes a satisfactory system for conducting vocational assessment with eligible clients to ensure that a full range of vocational goals are considered.

(b) *Key personnel and other resources.* (15 points) (1) The Secretary reviews each application to determine the quality of key personnel proposed for the project, including—

(i) The relevant experience and training of the project director;

(ii) The relevant experience and training of each of the other key personnel to be used on the project;

(iii) The amount of time that each person referred to in paragraphs (b)(1)(i) and (ii) of this section will commit to the project;

(iv) The extent to which persons referred to in paragraphs (b)(1)(i) and (ii) of this section are capable of providing technical assistance to other entities interested in replicating the project; and

(v) The extent to which the applicant will ensure that persons employed through the project are selected and work without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disabling condition.

(2) The Secretary reviews each application to determine the adequacy of the resources the applicant plans to devote to the project, including—

(i) The facilities that the applicant plans to use;

(ii) The equipment and supplies that the applicant plans to use; and

(iii) The recordkeeping capabilities of the applicant for financial and evaluation purposes.

(c) *Service provision.* (20 points) The Secretary reviews each application to determine the quality and comprehensiveness of the services to be offered and the applicant's capacity to provide increased choice in the provision of services to eligible clients, including the extent to which the applicant—

(1) Has the capacity to evaluate the eligibility of applicants for services and to develop written plans for services for individual clients;

(2) Has demonstrated knowledge of a wide range of potential service providers that can meet the needs of eligible clients;

(3) Has described a workable process for enabling eligible clients to choose from among a wide range of service providers;

(4) Has described satisfactory systems to account for the appropriate expenditure of funds; and

(5) Has described satisfactory systems to ensure the provision of quality services.

(d) *Evaluation plan.* (10 points) The Secretary reviews each application to determine the quality of the evaluation plan for the project, including the extent to which the applicant's methods of evaluation—

(1) Are appropriate to the project;

(2) Will determine how successful the project is in meeting its intended outcomes; and

(3) Are objective and produce data that are quantifiable, including data that are required under § 377.30.

(e) *National significance.* (15 points) The Secretary reviews each application to determine the extent to which—

(1) Project findings might be effectively used within the State vocational rehabilitation service system; and

(2) Project activities might be successfully replicated by other entities.

(f) *Budget and cost effectiveness.* (10 points) The Secretary reviews each application to determine the extent to which—

(1) The budget for the project is adequate to support the project activities;

(2) Costs are reasonable in relation to the objectives of the project.

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(Authority: Sec. 802(g)(3) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; 29 U.S.C. 797a(g)(3))

§377.22 What additional factors does the Secretary consider in making grants?

In addition to the criteria in §377.21, the Secretary considers the following factors in making grants under this program:

(a) The diversity of strategies to increase client choice, in order to ensure that a variety of approaches are demonstrated by funded projects.

(b) The diversity of clients to be served, in order to ensure that a variety of disability populations are served by funded projects.

(c) The geographical distribution of funded projects.

(Authority: Sec. 802(g)(4) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; 29 U.S.C. 797a(g)(4))

Subpart D—What Post-Award Conditions Must Be Met by a Grantee?

§377.30 What information must a grantee maintain and provide to the Secretary?

(a) Each grantee shall maintain the records that the Secretary requires to conduct an evaluation of projects funded under this program, which at a minimum must include information regarding the—

- (1) Types of services provided;
- (2) Costs of services provided;
- (3) Number of clients served by disability, race, gender, and age;
- (4) Number of clients with a severe disability served;
- (5) Client outcomes obtained;
- (6) Implementation issues addressed; and
- (7) Any other information the Secretary requires.

(b) Each grantee shall comply with any request from the Secretary for those records.

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(Authority: Secs. 802(g)(5) and 802(g)(7) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; 29 U.S.C. 797a(g)(5) and (7))

§377.31 What information must a grantee provide to eligible clients?

Each grantee shall advise all clients and applicants for services under this program, or their parents, family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives, of the availability and purposes of the Client Assistance Program under section 112 of the Act, including information on means of seeking assistance under that program.

(Authority: Sec. 20 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; 29 U.S.C 718a)

§377.32 What are the matching requirements?

Grants may be made for paying all or part of the costs of projects under this program. If part of the costs is to be covered by the grantee, the amount of grantee contribution is specified in the application notice and will not be required to be more than 10 percent of the total cost of the project.

(Authority: Sec. 802(g)(1) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; 29 U.S.C. 797a(g)(1))

PART 379—PROJECTS WITH INDUSTRY

Subpart A—General

Sec.

379.1 What is the Projects With Industry (PWI) program?

379.2 Who is eligible for a grant award under this program?

379.3 Who is eligible for services under this program?

379.4 What regulations apply?

379.5 What definitions apply?

Subpart B—What Kinds of Activities Does the Department of Education Assist Under This Program?

379.10 What types of project activities are required of each grantee under this program?